THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) The Govt. of U.K. have been providing grant assistance to the coal sector for import of goods and services of UK origin since 1975. The latest grant is for an amount of £ 31 million. Necessary agreement between the Govt. of India and the Govt. of U.K., allocating the coal sector grant of £ 31 million was signed in March, 1987. The U.K. assistance *inter-alia* covers Mine Planning and Designing, Operational assistance to the coal companies through technical experts, and Training of Indian experts in UK and India on mine mechanisation. In addition, the assistance also covers Transfer of British technology for manufacture of mining equipment through Indian Public Sector Undertakings like MAMC and Jessop & Co. who have collaboration arrangements with British manufacturers.

(c) and (d) So far 12 Powered Support Longwall equipment sets have been introduced in the underground mines of CIL and SCCL with British assistance as under:

5 sets in Moonidih (Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.) one each at Seetalpur and Dhemomain (Eastern Coalfields Ltd.) one at Pathakhera (Western Coalfields Ltd); one at Churcha West (South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.) one each at JK-5, GDK-7/9 and VK-7 (Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.). The rated capacity of all these 12 longwall sets is 16000 tonnes per day of coal production. During 1989-90 the overall performance of the 9 operating sets, excluding 3 sets under repair, maintenance and shifting, was about 60% of the rated capacity.

Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project

1313. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project, which has been included in the Indo-Soviet agreement for foreign aid, has been given green signal by the Environment Department and the Public Investment Board; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Development of Calicut and Cochin Airports

1314. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Calicut airport is being grossly underutilised and that Cochin airport is not being developed; and

(b) if so, what are the scheme contemplated for the development of these two airports?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Calicut airport is being used by Indian Airlines and Vayudoot. Indian Airlines are operating a daily Bombay-Calicut-Bombay flight. Vayudoot are operating thrice a weak service through Trivandrum-Madras and Bangalore. The number of flights can be increased provided aircraft capacity becomes available.

Various options, including extending the main runway and strengthening the same for airbus operations, realignment of the secondary runway presently used for naval operations; and construction of a